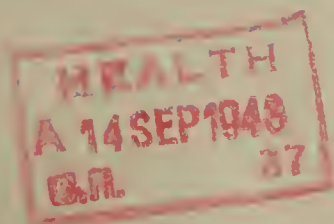


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A N N U A L R E P O R T

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C O U N T Y B O R O U G H O F W I G A N

for the Year

1 9 4 2 .

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HENRY WHITEHEAD, M.D.,D.P.H.(Vict),M.B.,B.S.(Lond.)

Medical Officer of Health, Chief Tuberculosis Officer,  
Superintendent School Medical Officer, Medical Supt.  
of Corporation Hospitals, etc.



Public Health Department,  
Municipal Buildings,  
Library Street,  
W I G A N.

July, 1943.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the County Borough of Wigan.

---

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough and on the work of the Health Department for the year 1942.

The Birth Rate is higher than in 1941, being 18.38 against 17.44, and considerably higher than the average for the whole country.

The general Death Rate of 12.95 is lower than last year's rate of 13.72.

The Infant Mortality is 62, and is the lowest ever recorded.

The Maternal Mortality is 6.15, which is well above the average for the last five years.

The death rate from pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis is .80 per thousand of the population, a slight rise on the figure for 1941 which was .78.

The Municipal Midwifery Service continues to work very satisfactorily, and the average number of cases attended by each midwife is 76. They are expected to deal with approximately 80 cases each per year.

Diphtheria was less prevalent than last year. 150 cases were notified, compared with 193 notifications in 1941. Many efforts have been made to encourage parents to consent to inoculation of their children; and the results have been an increase in the numbers of children immunised. There are still many parents whose only excuse for refusal is that "they don't believe in it". During 1942 the number of children inoculated was 1250 making a total of 6244 immunised.

Two war-time nurseries were erected and opened in order to release mothers with children aged 6 months to 5 years for war work. It is pleasing to note that the children cared for in the nurseries have improved in every way. (see page 16).

Under the Scabies Order 1941 arrangements were made to treat this verminous condition at Whelley Infectious Disease Hospital. During 1942, the number of persons treated was 675 who made 2837 attendances. (see page 12).

It is again my privilege to record my thanks to all the members of my staff in the Health Department and in the Hospitals for their continued loyalty and excellent service. Again, in addition to their usual duties, they have carried out a great amount of extra work in connection with the Emergency Casualty Services.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman of the Health Committee (Alderman T. Ramsden); the Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee (Councillor Mrs. Ashurst); and also the Chairman of the Insanitary Houses and Conversions Committee (Councillor W. Shaw) for their continued co-operation, confidence and support. I thank too the members of the Committees under whom I serve for their courtesy and consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

HENRY WHITEHEAD.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1941 - 1942.

					1941.	1942.
Births - Males	766	}	Total ...	... ..	1,402	1,462
Females	696					
Annual rate of births per 1,000 on Registrar General's estimated population.	...	...	...	...	17.44	18.38
Ditto for England and Wales...	...	...	...	...	14.20	15.80
Ditto, 126 County Boroughs and great towns	...	...	...	...	14.70	17.30
Illegitimate births number 65 or .81 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of	...	...	...	...	3.49	4.44
Deaths - Males	538	}	Total ...	... ..	1,103	1030
Females	492					
Corrected Death-rate, on Registrar General's estimated population....	...	...	...	...	13.72	12.95
Ditto in England and Wales...	...	...	...	...	12.90	11.60
Death-rate in 126 County Boroughs and great towns	...	...	...	...	14.90	13.30
Excess of registered births over deaths..	...	...	...	...	299	432
Maternal death-rate	...	...	...	...	2.11	6.15
Total deaths from seven principal Zymotic Diseases...	...	...	...	...	27	22
Annual rate of mortality from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	...	.33	.27
Total deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years...	...	...	...	...	5	6
Death-rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	3.52	4.10
Infantile-rate (deaths per 1,000 births)	...	...	...	...	95	62
ditto for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	59	49
ditto for 126 County Boroughs and great towns	...	...	...	...	71	59
Deaths of infants under one day old (number)...	...	...	...	...	25	12
ditto one year (legitimate)...	...	...	...	...	132	87
ditto one year (illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3	4

Births - The number of births registered during 1942 is 1462 (males 766, females 696) the rate per 1,000 of the population being 18.38. The birth rate compared with 1941 is .94 higher.  
The illegitimate births number 65 or 4.44 per cent.

Stillbirths - The following shows the number of stillbirths registered during the year 1942 :-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate...	34	29	63
Illegitimate.	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	34	31	65

The Mortality Rate - The deaths for 1942 number 1,030 (males 538, females 492), being an excess of 46 males over females. The recorded rate per 1,000 of the population per annum is 12.95; in 1941, 13.72. The decrease in the number of deaths as compared with 1941 was 73 - and the rate .77 per 1,000.



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Births - (Legitimate)	1,397	734	663	(Birth rate per 1,000 population 18.38)
(Illegitimate)	65	32	33	
	1,462	766	696	

Deaths -	1,030	538	492	(Death rate per 1,000 population 12.95)
----------	-------	-----	-----	---

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth:- Sepsis 5,  
Other Causes 4.

Mortality of women in, or associated with childbirth per 1,000 births (live and still) :-

Puerperal Sepsis...	3.42	
Other Puerperal causes...	2.73	
Total Puerperal mortality		6.15
Non-Puerperal causes ...		
Total Maternal Mortality.		6.15

Infant Mortality: (i.e. death rate under 1 year of age per 1,000 births:-

Total Births 1462.	Total Deaths 91.	Infant Mortality 62.
Legitimate Births 1397.	Deaths under 1 year 87.	Death Rate 62.
Illegitimate " 65.	" " " " 4.	" " 61.

Of the 91 deaths, 12 died under 1 day, 27 under 1 week, and 53 under 1 month.

The three main causes of death were:- Premature birth 20, Congenital Malformations 30 and Pneumonia 22.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

69 inquests were held in Wigan during 1942, as against 85 in 1941, and 82 in 1940. The following verdicts were recorded :-

Natural causes	- 2.
Accidents.	- Burns 6, Mills 2, Colliery 8, Falls 5, Falls downstairs 3, Street 17, Others 14.
Suicides.	- Cut throat 1, Gas 4.
Other causes.	- 6.
Murder.	- 1.

One uncertified death was registered as against one in 1941, and none in 1940.

THE ZYMOTIC RATE, .27, is made up as follows:-

Diphtheria	- deaths 12, rate .15;	Diarrhoea	- deaths 6, rate .08;
Whooping Cough	- deaths 2, rate .02;	Measles	- deaths 2, rate .02.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS SINCE YEAR 1876.

Year.	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Zymotic Death Rate	Infant Mortality
1876	48.90	28.50	4.92	186
1886	38.70	22.10	3.10	174
1896	35.90	23.09	4.09	186
1906	32.60	17.61	2.61	160
1916	23.28	15.42	1.04	113
1926	20.05	13.13	.30	103
1936	17.23	12.78	.42	82
1942	18.38	12.95	.27	62

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The Clerk to the Public Assistance Committee has kindly supplied me with the following information :-

Year Ending.	Average No. of families receiving relief.	Amount paid in relief.
31st March 1943	514	£ 30,404
31st March 1942	538	£ 28,893

## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1942.

CAUSES	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
All Causes...	M	538	54	17	7	71	162	227
	F	492	37	14	10	71	127	233
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers. ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	M	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
3. Scarlet Fever. ....	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria... ..	M	7	-	4	3	-	-	-
	F	5	-	1	4	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	M	28	1	-	-	17	9	1
	F	25	-	1	-	19	5	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	M	7	1	3	-	2	1	-
	F	4	-	1	-	2	-	1
8. Syphilitic Disease. ... ..	M	2	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
9. Influenza ... ..	M	7	-	-	-	-	4	3
	F	10	-	-	-	2	5	3
10. Measles. ... ..	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis.. ...	M	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
13M Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus.	M	7	-	-	-	1	1	5
15F Cancer of Uterus... ..	F	10	-	-	-	3	6	1
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum. ...	M	15	-	-	-	-	9	6
	F	8	-	-	-	1	3	4
15. Cancer of Breast... ..	F	9	-	-	-	3	4	2
16. Cancer of all other sites. ... ..	M	38	-	-	-	3	21	14
	F	30	-	-	-	3	10	17
17. Diabetes ... ..	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions. ...	M	57	-	-	-	1	16	40
	F	61	-	-	-	-	21	40
19. Heart Disease ... ..	M	96	-	-	-	13	30	53
	F	101	-	-	1	11	33	56
20. Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	M	10	-	-	-	1	-	9
	F	6	-	-	-	-	2	4
21. Bronchitis... ..	M	62	-	-	-	8	23	31
	F	42	1	1	-	2	7	31
22. Pneumonia ... ..	M	37	13	4	2	4	5	9
	F	32	9	4	2	2	8	7
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	M	8	-	1	-	1	5	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	2	1
24. Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum ...	M	7	-	-	-	2	5	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	M	3	1	2	-	-	-	-
	F	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis. ... ..	M	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	2	-	-	1	-	-	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases. ... ..	M	6	2	-	-	-	2	2
	F	9	-	-	-	2	2	5
28. Nephritis ... ..	M	12	-	-	-	3	4	5
	F	7	-	-	-	1	3	3
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis...	F	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
30. Other Internal Causes ... ..	F	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
31. Premature Birth ... ..	M	12	12	-	-	-	-	-
	F	8	8	-	-	-	-	-
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury	M	19	18	1	-	-	-	-
Infantile Disease ... ..	F	13	12	1	-	-	-	-
33. Suicide. ... ..	M	4	-	-	-	1	1	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents... ..	M	5	-	1	-	-	2	3
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
35. Other Violent Causes. ... ..	M	23	2	1	1	1	10	6
	F	17	-	1	-	2	3	11
36. All Other Causes... ..	M	55	4	1	1	5	12	33
	F	64	4	1	2	7	10	40



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY

Samples of water are taken monthly from each of the four supplies, and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. They have been consistently reported as satisfactory. The samples are obtained from service taps in various houses situate in many parts of the town. Other samples are taken as required at various places on the Worthington and Edgewood Watersheds.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Douglas and streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough.

The Douglas Catchment Board control the river. They have carried out many improvements and also cleanse the bed of the river when required.

### DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, SCAVENGING and REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained. House refuse is regularly collected and disposed of by destructors and tipping. The streets are regularly scavenged.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Almost the whole of the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. The number of water closets on March 31st, 1943, was 26,634; in addition there are 103 waste water closets, 51 pail closets and 39 privy middens. The Pail closets and privy middens are in connection with unfit houses or isolated farms with cottages adjoining. During the year 3 waste water closets were converted to closets with efficient flushing apparatus.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. F. Martlew, Chief Sanitary Inspector, submits the following remarks:

The town is divided into five districts. A District Sanitary Inspector is responsible to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the constant supervision of each district. In addition, Inspectors specialise in the control of factories, workshops, including bake-houses, shops and offices.

Houses and premises inspected and visited re nuisances and complaints.	4445
Re-visits to nuisances...	9540
Other visits made...	753
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)...	164
Nuisances discovered	4390
Nuisances abated...	3980
Notices issued (preliminary)...	1424
" " (formal)...	529
Letters issued re nuisances	823

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In consequence of certain instructions contained in Circular 134/1940, issued by the Ministry of Home Security, it was not deemed necessary to take any smoke observations.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.

These premises are visited regularly and were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. 565 visits were made to the 8 Common Lodging Houses in the Borough with accommodation for 380 lodgers. 68 visits were made to the 2 Houses let in Lodgings.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Offensive trades are carried on at seven premises. They consist of 1 fellmonger, 1 fat boiler, 3 gut scrapers, 1 gut scraper and fat boiler, 1 tripe boiler. 30 visits were made to these premises.

### RAG FLOCK ACT.

4 samples of Rag Flock obtained from manufacturers of bedding and furniture were submitted to the Public Analyst. All conformed to the Rag Flock Regulations.

### CANAL BOATS - Public Health Act, 1936.

As far as can be ascertained 29 Canal Boats registered in Wigan are still in use. 49 Inspections were made during the year. 8 defects were discovered and all were remedied. 11 letters were addressed to the owners.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 379 factories in the Borough; 221 of these have mechanical power. 324 visits to these premises were made. 59 contraventions of the Act were discovered during the year: they were as follows:- Lack of cleanliness 6; Defective sanitary accommodation 28; Unsuitable exits or escapes in case of fire 0; Ineffective drainage of floors 1; Insufficient ventilation to factory 2; Other defects 22. All the foregoing contraventions under the Act were remedied informally.

### SHOPS ACT 1912 - 1936.

Number of shops on register 1980. The following visits and observations were made:- day, 2575, night 640; Total 3215. Contraventions discovered:- not exhibiting statutory Notices within premises 8; Insufficient sanitary accommodation 1; defective sanitary accommodation 12; insufficient washing facilities 2; insufficient ventilation 3; insufficient facilities for maintaining reasonable temperature 3; unclean condition of premises 12; other defects 37; letters sent out 41.

### PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

44 premises are registered for the sale of poisons. 43 visits were made to premises.

### PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

There are 25 places of entertainment within the Borough, each one is inspected periodically and reports are made on their sanitary condition before the renewal of licenses. 38 visits were made.

### RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Mr. E. Richardson, who devotes a portion of his time as administrative officer under the above Act, reports that during the year 240 visits were made to 122 premises found to be infested with rats or mice; 50 of these were reported to be free of these rodents. During Rat Week baits were distributed to persons in occupation of infested premises.

### HOUSING.

The number of dwellings at the 1931 census was 18,573. The number of families was 20,190 or 1,617 more than dwellings. The population at the 1931 census was 85,357.

During the year 2 houses were erected by private enterprise. Since January 1st, 1921, 2594 houses have been erected by private enterprise and 2570 by the local authority, total 5164. During the period 1931-1942 approximately 1570 dwellings have been demolished or ceased to be used for habitation. During the year 3196 dwellinghouses were inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts, of these 2568 were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925; the total inspections and re-inspections made were 11,966; 2,202 were not reasonably fit for habitation. 1431 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action; 542 houses were rendered fit after the service of formal notices. 5 houses were demolished after formal action under the Housing Acts, and three others in consequence of informal action.

### Overcrowding.

Many evacuees, and others have come into the town since hostilities commenced, with the result that, at the time of writing this report practically every available dwelling is occupied and many houses by more than one family. It is impossible to give any reliable figures as regards overcrowding and only a limited number of cases of overcrowding have been relieved during the year. To relieve this situation a few houses on which Demolition Orders have been made or Undertakings given that the houses would not be used as dwellings in future were allowed on licence to be used as dwellings for limited periods.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of persons registered under the above enactments are as follows :-

Dairymen - premises within the Borough 137, premises outside the Borough 26, total 163. Wholesale dealers 12, producers 25.

Approximately 300 milch cows are kept in the Borough and the Cowsheds are kept in a satisfactory condition. Number of visits to cowsheds 154, to dairies 164, and milkshops 103.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Number of licences issued for the sale of pasteurised milk 35.

" " " " " " " " and production of pasteurised milk 4, number of licences issued for the sale of Accredited milk 9, number of persons licenced for the sale and production of Accredited Milk 3, number of licences issued for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk 3.

During the year 178 samples of milk were taken for the purpose of testing the amount of foreign matter contained in milk intended for sale in the Borough. These samples were obtained at dairies and farms. In 15 cases letters were addressed to producers outside the Borough regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the milk.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MILK.

36 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and/or the methylene blue reduction test. 6 were below a reasonable standard.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector and five District Inspectors are all qualified Meat Inspectors. There are within the Borough 12 licenced slaughter houses. District Inspectors examine carcasses slaughtered within their own districts.

Owing to Food Control only 6 of the above premises are being used for slaughtering.

Premises which come within the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are frequently visited. A large proportion of condemned meat is sent to a fat melters for manufacturing purposes. The remainder is dealt with at the Cleansing Depot, Frog Lane.

The firm receiving this condemned meat has signed an undertaking that it will only be used for manufacturing purposes and they regularly return special schedules of the quantities received. Shops, stores and vehicles are constantly inspected.

Registration of Purveyors of Meat and Premises.

The Wigan Corporation Act, 1933, Section 36, contained powers for the compulsory registration of purveyors of meat and premises which are used or proposed to be used for the sale of meat. The number of premises registered at the end of 1942 was 98.

Private Slaughter Houses in Use in the Area.

	<u>On 31st Dec. 1920.</u>	<u>On 31st Dec. 1942.</u>
Registered...	24	-
Licenced ...	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>
	25	<u>12</u>
No. of visits to slaughterhouses...	...	2585
" " " " markets ...	...	468
" " " " butchers and other food shops. ...	...	2162
" " certificates issued (condemned food) ...	...	913

Carcases examined during the year 1942.

	<u>Beasts.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Carcases examined...	6475	2230	4705	24012	37422
Carcases totally condemned ...	144	28	25	14	211
Percentage totally condemned ...	2.22	1.25	0.53	0.06	0.56

The following meat and offal from slaughterhouses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1942 :-

	Whole carcase and all offal con- demned.	Part of carcase condemned.	Offal Condemned.									
			Heads.	Lungs.	Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs.	Spleens.	Kidneys.	Udders.	Mesenteries.	Skirts.
<u>Affected with Tuberculosis.</u>												
Beasts	114	282	420	1990	281	41	240	13	81	44	506	285
Calves	8	3	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	19	56	352	213	160	136	30	18	6	4	23	1
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Affected with other disease etc.</u>												
Beasts	30	1	2	263	1363	16	10	-	105	283	-	-
Calves	20	1	-	4	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Pigs	6	-	1	195	64	26	3	-	8	4	-	-
Sheep	14	-	-	11	66	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
	211	343	775	2677	1938	224	283	31	203	335	529	286

Included in the above were 26 carcasses dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

#### OTHER FOOD.

A large wholesale business in fish and other foodstuffs is carried on in and around the markets, and these premises are visited daily.

#### Summary of other Foodstuffs condemned, 1942.

No. of packages of wet fish...	114.
No. of packages of dry fish...	100
Meat..	3104 lb.
Canned Meat.	1726
Other canned or bottled food..	4206
Rabbits, Game and Fowl..	4203
Fruit and vegetables.....	20 lb.
Cheese ...	122 lb.
Other Foods. ...	2050 lb.
" " (packages)...	677

#### Fried Fish Shops.

82 premises in the Borough used for the purpose of fish frying, all of which were kept under observation.

#### Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1938.

226 samples obtained under the above Act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Samples were as follows :-

Milk 121; Evaporated Milk 3; Cheese 3; Butter 9; Margarine 11; Lard 12; Tea 13; Coffee 10; Jam 2; Pepper 11; Vinegar 7; Canned Vegetables 6; Meat & Fish Pastes 8; Custard Powders & Flavours 2; Prepared Flavourings 2; Liquid Labelled Lemon 1; Anti Gas Ointment 5.

24 samples of Milk and 2 of vinegar were reported as adulterated - remainder were genuine.

#### Samples reported to be Adulterated or below Standard.

9 samples of milk were certified to be deficient in fat varying from 6.6% to 16%. After receipt of letters of explanation no legal action was taken.

7 samples of milk deficient in non-fatty solids (3 of which were also deficient in fat). Freezing test proved water not added. No action taken.

4 informal samples of milk from one producer certified to contain 5.2 to 12.3% of added water. Later, 4 formal samples of milk from same producer certified to contain 7.6 to 16% of added water. Legal proceedings taken. Fined £5 in each case plus £2. 2. 0. costs.



2 samples of milk from one producer certified to contain 8.2% and 12.2% of added water. Legal proceedings taken. Fined £10 and £5 plus £1.1. costs.

2 samples of vinegar were certified to be deficient in Acetic Acid to the extent of 10% and 20%. Following correspondence no action was taken.

#### FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT 1926.

7 samples of Feeding Stuffs and 6 samples of Fertilisers were taken and submitted to the Agricultural Analyst. All the samples complied with the requirements of the above Act.

#### CHEMICAL WORK.

The Public Analyst has the honour to report as follows upon the duties of his office during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1942 :-

#### Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

During the above period, 226 samples of food, etc., were examined, consisting of 121 milks, 13 teas, 12 lards, 11 each of margarine and pepper, 10 coffees, 9 butters, 8 meat and fish pastes, 7 vinegars, 6 tinned vegetables, 5 anti-gas ointments (No.2), 3 each of condensed milk and cheese, 2 each of jam, flavouring essence and custard preparations and 1 "Lemon" beverage.

28 samples, equivalent to 12.4%, were reported as either adulterated or below standard. 26 of these samples were milks, which may be summarised as follows :-

10 contained Extraneous Water in amount varying from 5.2 to 16.0%.

9 were deficient in Fat to the extent of from 6.6 to 16.6%.

4 were naturally deficient in non-fatty solids from 1.2 to 6.4%, being abnormal but otherwise genuine.

3 were deficient in both fat and non-fatty solids, but were of genuine quality.

Although the percentage of adulteration as regards the milk supply is fairly high, there is a tremendous improvement over the previous year's record, when 49 samples were reported as containing Extraneous Water.

Preservative and colouring agents were, again, absent throughout the supply.

Two samples of Vinegar (one being of the 'Malt' type) were deficient in Acetic acid to the extent of 10 and 20 per cent, respectively.

No comment is called for regarding the remaining samples, which were all of normal commercial composition.

#### Fertilisers & Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

During the year, 7 samples of feeding-stuff and 6 fertilisers were submitted. 3 of the former contained slight differences in constituents from the Statutory Statements, after allowing for the Limits of Variation, whilst a fourth, for which there was no warranty, contained only about one-half the normal amount of Albuminoids. One or two of the Fertilisers varied slightly in Phosphoric acid content, as compared with the declaration in the Statutory Statement, but these differences were of no special significance.

#### Water Supply.

56 samples of Water were analysed during the year, 48 from the Public Supplies and the remainder from emergency and other sources. The accustomed degree of purity of the Public water supplies has been maintained throughout, whilst some of the emergency supplies were so heavily contaminated and had such an unsatisfactory organic history that their use could not be considered for potable purposes.

#### Rag Flock Regulations.

4 samples of Rag Flock were examined and all readily complied with the official requirements.

(Signed) S. Ernest Melling,  
Public Analyst.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

During the year 48 samples of water obtained from service taps in the various parts of the Borough were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester for Bacteriological Examination. All 48 samples were reported B. Coli not found in 100 cc. 14 other samples were collected from streams, in the gathering grounds, reservoirs and storage tanks prior to chlorination.



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Vaccinations.

Vaccination of children whose births were registered during the year 1942.

Births registered 1,145; successful vaccinations 115; statutory declaration of conscientious objection 754; died unvaccinated 65; postponement by medical certificate 8; removal to other districts (vaccination officers duly apprised) 8; removal to places unknown, or cannot be traced 2; number of these births remaining on the 31st January 1943, not entered in vaccination register nor temporarily accounted for in the report book 193; Total number of certificates and copies of certificates of successful primary vaccinations received during calendar year 201; number of statutory declarations of conscientious objections received by vaccination officers irrespective of the dates of birth of children to which they relate during the calendar year 774.

Children Immunised Against Diphtheria.

	School Children	Children under School Age.	Total
During the Year, 1942.	656	594	1250
Total number from commencement of Scheme 1937 to end of 1942. ....	4982	1262	6244

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Bedding and clothing from houses in which Infectious Diseases have occurred are dealt with by a high pressure disinfectant as also is similar material from houses infested with vermin. Prior to removal to Council houses furniture from houses infested with vermin is treated in the Local Authority's furniture van by means of cyanide gas by a firm of contractors who specialise in this work. Furniture owned by 1 family was treated by this process during the year. In certain instances bedding which was unfit for further use was destroyed. Supplies of vermicide are issued along with the loan of suitable sprays for the treatment of infested houses.

Disinfectants are provided free to the occupiers of houses where infectious diseases occur and in other cases of exceptional circumstances.

Hospital for Acute Infectious Cases, Whelley.

This Institution contains 76 beds. The Medical Officer of Health personally attends the patients. The majority of cases admitted are from the Borough of Wigan, but a number are sent in from surrounding districts.

	Notifications.	Removed to Whelley Hospital.		Died in Whelley Hospital.	
		Patients.		Patients	
		Wigan	Out-dist.	Wigan	Out-dist.
Smallpox...	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever...	106	29	10	-	-
Enteric Fever...	1	1	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever...	3	2	-	-	-
Diphtheria & Memb. Group...	150	151	13	12	-
Pneumonia...	75	2	-	1	-
Influenzal Pneumonia...	8	-	-	-	-
Chickenpox...	135	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas...	19	4	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	5	3	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica...	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	89	-	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis...	45	-	-	-	-
Measles...	394	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia...	4	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis...	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis...	16	17	4	3	2
Whooping Cough...	60	1	-	-	-
Others...	-	8	1	-	-
	1110	220	28	16	2



Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1942.

Name of District - Wigan County Borough.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified. At Ages - Years.													Total Cases notified in each locality (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the district.													
	At all ages	Under 1.	1 & under 2.	2 & under 3.	3 & under 4.	4 & under 5.	5 & under 10.	10 & under 15.	15 & under 20.	20 & under 35.	35 & under 45.	45 & under 65.	65 and over.	St. George.	Lindsay.	St. Cath.	St. Patrick.	St. Thomas.	Poolstock.	Victoria.	St. Andrew.	Swinley.	All Saints.	West Pemb.	North Pemb.	Central Pemb.	South Pemb.
Smallpox...	106	1	3	150	75	8	135	19	5	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	1	3	150	75	8	135	19	5	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Enteric Fever ...	3	150	75	8	135	19	5	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever ...	150	75	8	135	19	5	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria & Membr. Group.	75	8	135	19	5	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia...	8	135	19	5	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Influenzal Pneumonia...	135	19	5	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chickenpox. ...	19	5	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas. ...	5	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	-	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	89	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	45	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles ...	394	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	16	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	16	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough...	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	1110	43	62	106	141	120	341	76	59	69	43	36	14	28	49	58	93	14	27	36	282	125	26	49	74	156	93

Whelley Hospital.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet F.	Enteric F.	Others.	Total.
In-patients, 1.1.42.	16	5	-	4	25
Admitted in 1942....	164	39	3	42	248
Discharged in 1942..	126	41	3	38	208
Died in 1942.. ...	12	-	-	7	19
In-patients, 1.1.43.	42	3	-	1	46

THE SCABIES ORDER 1941  
made by the Minister of Health under Regulation 33A of the  
Defence (General) Regulations 1939.

Following the above order, arrangements were made to treat scabies in a vacant ward at Whelley Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Families affected were investigated and all members with scabies were treated.

Application of Benzyl Bensoin was the method used and the results were very satisfactory.

Five persons with septic sores complicating scabies were treated in hospital as in-patients for a total of 50 days.

In 1942, 675 persons were treated since the scheme commenced on 21st January 1942, and the number of attendances was 2837.

This scheme has meant a great amount of extra work, and a school nurse supervised and carried out the treatment of young children and females, assisted by female A.R.P. Staff, while members of the male staff and A.R.P. staff dealt with the males. One of the sanitary inspectors visited the homes and arranged the times of treatment.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following specimens were submitted for examination during 1942 :-

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for Diphtheria...	210	817	1027
Widal Tests for Enteric ...	8	16	24
Faeces and urine for Enteric..	-	7	7
Cerebro Spinal Fluid...	4	4	8
Wasserman Tests for V.D. ....	212	1148	1360
Kahn's Test ... ..	6	7	13
Tests for gonococci ... ..	2	16	18
Milk (Bacteria Count).. ...			27
Milk (for B. Coli.)... ..			36
Milk (for Methylene Blue Test.			9
Milk (for T.B. Inoculation Test			1
Water (Bacteriological) ...			62
Water (Chemical). ....			56
Food and Drugs Samples. ...			226
Total Examinations ...			2874

Compensation Claims and Medical Examinations.

The Medical Officer of Health examined 147 Corporation Employees during the year 1942. The number of persons examined under the Workmen's Compensation Acts is very high, owing to the establishment of a Works Department.



TUBERCULOSIS.

Artificial Pneumothorax.

During 1942 Artificial Pneumothorax treatment was performed in 6 new cases. 528 refills were carried out in these and other cases.

Hospital for Treatment of Tuberculosis, Pemberton.

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to Pemberton Hospital during the year :-

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
Borough Cases.	21	30	5	56
County Cases..	5	3	1	9
TOTALS.	26	33	6	65

After-Care.

During the year 1942, 105 patients received free milk from the After Care Committee. Of these 23 were new recommendations and 21 were removed from the list due to commencing work and other causes. The average number of persons in receipt of milk was 69. 12 persons received new clothing from the Committee.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 1st January 1942 to the 31st December, 1942.

Number of Primary Notifications of New Cases of T.B.												
Age Periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total(all ages)
Pulmonary Males.	-	-	-	-	10	4	11	16	4	1	3	49
" Females.	-	2	-	2	10	7	10	3	3	3	-	40
Non-Pulmonary Males.	1	5	2	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	16
" " Females.	1	2	5	3	7	5	3	1	-	1	2	30

Supplemental Return.

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by Formal Notification.

Age Periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary Males.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Females.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Non-Pulmonary Males.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
" " Females.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

The source or sources from which Information as to the above-mentioned cases was obtained is stated below :-

Source of Information.	No. of cases.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Death Returns - from Local Registrars.	-	2
Transferable deaths from Registrar General....	1	1
Posthumous Notifications..	-	-
Transfers from other areas (other than Transferable deaths)...	1	-
Other sources, if any ....	-	-

Return Showing the Work of the Dispensary during the Year 1942.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.		Grand Total
	Adults.	Children	Adults.	Children	Adults.	Children	
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
A. New Cases examined during the year (excluding contacts)....							
(a) Definitely Tuberculous....	41	32	-	2	45	46	105
(b) Diagnosis not completed.....	-	-	-	-	5	6	18
(c) Non-Tuberculous..	-	-	-	-	119	71	220
B. Contacts examined during the year.....							
(a) Definitely Tuberculous....	4	1	-	1	4	1	7
(b) Diagnosis not completed.....	2	-	-	1	2	-	3
(c) Non-Tuberculous..	5	5	16	9	5	5	35
C. Cases written off the Dispensary Register as.....							
(a) Recovered.....	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
(b) Non-Tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as Tuberculous	-	-	-	-	127	80	270
D. No. of persons on Dispensary Register on Dec. 31st.....							
(a) Definitely Tuberculous....	127	122	8	5	179	188	514
(b) Diagnosis not completed.....	-	-	-	-	7	6	21

1. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st... 486
2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years. ... 6
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme, and cases lost sight of ... 23
4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes).. ... 49
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including contacts)... 3158
6. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31 Dec. 50
7. Number of consultations with Medical Practitioners:- (a) Personal.. 55  
(b) Others ... 422
8. Number of visits by Tuberculosis Officer to homes (including personal consultation... 102
9. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to homes for Dispensary purposes ... 2892
10. Number of (a) Specimens of sputum etc., examined.. 425  
(b) X-ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary work. 462
11. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register, and included in A (a), and A (b) above.. 1
12. Number of "T.B.plus" cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st.. 148

Results of Sunlight Treatment, 1942.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

	Under Treatment	New Cases	Discharged.			Coased to Attend	Under Treatment
	1.1.42		Much Improved	Improved	Stationary		31.12.42
T.B. Glands.....	10	9	7	1	-	4	7
Lupus ...	1	1	-	1	-	-	1
Bones and Joints.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.B. Abdomen ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals..	11	10	7	2	-	4	8



# VENEREAL DISEASES.

Venereal Diseases are treated at a Special Clinic at the Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. The figures below show the work done in 1942 :

	Borough 1941.1942		County 1941.1942		Others 1941.1942	
(a) Number of persons from each area dealt with during the year at or in connection with the Out-Patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from :-						
Syphilis... ..	26	24	30	33	-	1
Soft Chancre ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gonorrhoea. ... ..	55	49	79	63	4	-
Conditions other than Venereal ...	52	58	67	92	1	1
Totals..	133	131	176	188	5	2
(b) Total number of attendances of all patients residing in each area.	4318	4381	5613	6562	35	7

## Figures for the Past Five Years.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
New Cases... ..	260	265	248	314	321
Total attendances at V.D.Clinic ...	11610	9781	8650	9966	10950
In-patient days.. ...	134	124	53	22	4

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Attendances at Clinics:-				1941	1942
Babies... ..				9369	9112
Primary visits of babies... ..				1162	1121
Expectant mothers weekly clinic -			Central	1307	1984
			Special Clinic	107	120
			Pemberton Clinic	581	714
Maternal Mortality:-					
Deaths... ..				5	9
Rate ... ..				2.11	6.15
Births... ..				1402	1462
Visits paid to expectant mothers by Health Visitors..				381	217

## Dental Treatment.

The following table shows the Dental work carried out during the year 1942 in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Department :-

Babies Treated	Dressing etc.	Extractions	Fillings	Mothers Treated	Extractions	Fillings	Scaling etc.	Dentures
24	14	19	3	52	50	9	24	3

## Children's Act.

On the 1st January 1942 there were ten nursed out children on the register. On the 31st December 1942 there were four on the register. The Health Visitors who are also Infant Life Protection Visitors paid 82 visits to premises where children were being nursed out. There were no complaints.

## Ante-natal Work.

	Wigan Centre Weekly Special Clinic		Pemberton Clinic.
Number of primary cases attending clinic during yr.	564	54	220
Total number of attendances...	1984	120	714
Cases referred to St. Mary's Hospital ...	-	28	-
Cases admitted to St. Mary's Hospital ...	-	28	-

The table of infant mortality for 1942 shows that over one third of the deaths under one year occurred in the first four weeks of life - 33 of the total 91. Nearly one third were under one week old - 27 of the total 91. Of the 33 deaths under one month old 20 were due to premature birth.

Summary of the Visits paid by the Health Visitors during 1942.

No.	of primary visits to births ...	1517
"	" visits to infants under one year..	5937
"	" " " " " over one year and under two years	4591
"	" " " " " two and under three years...	3958
"	" " " " " three and under four years..	3294
"	" " " " " four and under five years...	2508
"	" " " " expectant mothers. ...	217
"	" " " " cases of abortion. ...	7
"	" " " " " Measles.. ...	190
"	" " " " " Pneumonia, etc... ..	45
"	" " " " re deaths under one year....	61
"	" " " " still births. ...	52
"	" " " " Midwives ...	330
"	" " other visits ...	1048

## Schools for Mothers.

105 classes were held during the year 1942, and 587 attendances were made by mothers.

The following are particulars of Notifications of births received from Docotors, Midwives and Institutions :-

No. of Births notified.. ... 1482.  
No. of still-births notified.. 62.  
No. of Medical Aid Forms received 328.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia Notified in 1942.

No. of Cases Notified.	Treated at				Result.
	Home.	Wigan Infirmary.	Billinge Infirmary.	Private Nursing Home.	
4	2	1	1	-	3 recovered 1 died

Municipal Midwives Service.

The number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives during the year 1942 was 919; and the total number of confinements by all the Midwives in the town was 1115. The Service consists of a Supervisor and 12 Municipal Midwives. There are 10 Midwives in Private Practice.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 1942 there were five notified cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. 2 cases were treated at home and 3 at Whelley Hospital. The result in all cases was vision unimpaired.

### Results of Sunlight Treatment, (Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic).

	Under-treatment	New Cases.	Discharged.		Ceased to attend.	Under treatment. 31.12.42
	1st. Jan. 1942.		Cured.	Much Improved.		
Malnutrition.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rickets. ...	-	2	-	-	1	1
Debility. ...	2	2	-	1	-	3
Others. ...	2	2	1	-	1	2
	4	6	1	1	2	6

## WAR-TIME NURSERTES.

During 1942, two war-time nurseries were erected by the Borough Engineer's department, pre-fabricated material being provided by the Government.

Open sites were chosen giving good facilities for the children to be in the open air weather permitting.

The Beech Hill War-time Nursery is on the playing field of Beech Hill Council School, and the Ellesmere Road War-time Nursery is situated behind Ellesmere Road, Pemberton.

Some modifications were recommended by the Medical Officer of Health and adopted, namely enlargement of the Matrons' bed sitting rooms by transferring the drying rooms to the nursery end, and the Staff W.C's were erected at the



staff end of the Nurseries near the staff bathrooms, instead of in the nursery section.

Other improvements suggested and carried out were the provision of sand-pits and extension of the concrete surround to enable the children to play outside if the grass was damp.

The provision of coke stoves for heating the Nurseries was criticised, but these were considered suitable by the Ministry of Health. However during the night when there is poor ventilation owing to black-out, the staff complain of sore and dry throats and often get coughs, probably due to the dry atmosphere and some escape of gases from the stoves. A more satisfactory and safer supply of heat would be electric tubular heating. The Nursery bathrooms require some form of heating, as in cold weather both children and staff feel the cold. Here too, electric tubular heating would be very satisfactory and it would be desirable to extend this form of heating to corridors and other parts of the building. In some recent nurseries this form of heating has been sanctioned and installed.

Each nursery is designed to accommodate 52 children aged 6 months to 5 years, 17 of whom may be resident.

The staff consists of a matron, deputy matron, two staff nurses, six assistants, and a teacher.

The work of organising, staffing, and preparing for occupation was very considerable, and the staffs of both Nurseries have worked very hard in maintaining a high standard of efficiency, with a result that the children have much improved in health and behaviour. Good feeding, kind treatment, cleanliness and care combine to make the children happy and contented; whilst in addition the 2 to 5 year olds benefit by the services of a teacher who keeps them occupied during certain hours and gives them guidance according to their age.

Practically all the children attending the nurseries have been immunised against Diphtheria.

Beech Hill Nursery commenced to receive children on 24th August 1942, and the Ellesmere Road Nursery on the 21st September.

They were both officially opened on the 9th December 1942 by Councillor Mrs. Ashurst, Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. Many Aldermen, Councillors, Officials and visitors were present. During 1942, the average number of children in the nurseries each day was 23 at Beech Hill and 24 at Ellesmere Road. Seven of the children in the former were resident, and ten in the latter.

Gifts of soft toys were sent by Lady Openshaw, the Area Organiser of War-time Nurseries, and were very much appreciated. Moreover she has taken a great and personal interest in the welfare of both children and staff.

Swings and other wooden toys have been made by the A.R.P. Staff at Beech Hill First Aid Post for both nurseries and these also were very thankfully received.

On 10th June, 1942, a war-time residential nursery was opened by Messrs. Walker Bros. for children of their employees. This is situated at the Rectory and the amenities of the building and grounds are excellent. The children are well cared for and the nursery arrangements very well conducted. At first there was accommodation for 42 children, which was later extended to receive 52.

#### WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

In June, 1933, Dr. Duthie, a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, was appointed for the examination of persons under the Blind Persons Act, and he examined 31 persons during 1942.

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